

on the lake. Anyone seeing violations or safety issues on the lake is requested to call the Stow Police who will log and respond to the events.

Boat owners are responsible for their boats at all times, including their wakes, regardless of who is driving their boat. Every summer we stop many boats for minor violations resulting in tickets and fines. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

The rules are posted at the launch site or available on line from the Stow Web site. State rules are on line as well at Mass.gov. If you send Conray Wharff an e-mail (conraywharff@gmail.com) at the address below, he will send you a copy of the rules.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ongoing lake management projects. If you are interested, please contact us via your Town Offices or send e-mail to ConrayWharff@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Curley, Stow
Lee Heron, Stow

Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chair

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Open Space Committee (OSC) is to advise the Town on open space priorities and to assist the Board of Selectmen and other Town boards and committees in implementing Stow's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

In 2012, there were changes to the roles of three OSC members. Vin Antil completed his effective tenure as Chairman after several years leading the Committee, succeeded by Chris Rodstrom. Vin Antil became the OSC representative to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), succeeding Bob Wilber who had skillfully served in that role since the CPC was first established.

In its continuing efforts to implement the OSRP, the Committee completed several activities including:

- - Completing its study of the significance of Stow's golf courses in terms of natural resource values and contributions to town character, including an examination of the ecological, scenic and other resources valuable to the community. This work was then shared with the Town's Planning Board for their review and input.
- - Working with the Conservation Commission, evaluated the characteristics of a property along Boxboro Road abutting Flagg Hill as a potential priority for acquisition by the Town.
- - Evaluating the characteristics of a property along Great Road by Ministers Pond as a potential priority for acquisition by the Town, and in early 2013 participated in a meeting of the other Town committees to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

The Town of Stow Open Space Committee met regularly throughout the year, with the goal of convening monthly. In the coming year, the OSRC will continue to provide timely and objective analysis of specific open space properties in Stow, as well as working toward the implementation of the OSRP.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Antil
Eve Donahue
William Maxfield

Brian Mulcahy
Chris Rodstrom, Chair
Robert Wilber

RANDALL LIBRARY

2012 was a year of exciting events and changes at the Randall Library. Susan Wysk retired as Library Director after 25 years of service, and a town-wide retirement party was held at the library in her honor on March 30th. The new Library Director, Melissa Fournier, began her employment in February. A new Library Aide was hired in October and the Children's Librarian resigned in December.

Programs and Events

New programs and events were initiated, including special author presentations and readings for adults, young adults and children. Among the authors who appeared at the library was the New York Times bestselling author Jacqueline Sheehan. Also appearing at the library were authors, Julie Berry, Erin Cashman, David Rothenberg, Beverly Ford, Stephanie Schorow, Beverly Mann Lessard, Ali Hosseini and Jonathan Hall.

Early literacy specialist Cynthia Maxfield from Nashoba Community Partnerships for Children began monthly visits to the library, conducting story-time sessions with preschoolers to help teach parents and caregivers how to promote early literacy skills in their children and better prepare the children for school. The "Reading Dogs" began appearing at the library on a weekly basis beginning in June 2012. These therapy dogs are provided by the organization *Pets and People*, and they come to the library to help children improve their reading skills and comfort levels with reading. Kim Rezendez of the Franklin School of Performing arts began making monthly visits to the Randall Library to conduct preschool music hours each month, to encourage literacy skills via the use of music and dance.

The library hosted the Randall Library Friends Organization's Book Sale on May 19th and 20th. This was a very successful event and will be held again in 2013. Proceeds from this sale helped to purchase furniture and sponsored special events at the library. The Library Director is very grateful to all who helped during this event.

Thanks to the generous efforts of Town Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin and the donation by Jean McFedries in honor of her late husband William McFedries, the Randall Library became home to a 1768 Charleville musket. This historical item likely belonged to the Minuteman Ichabod Stow, grandson of John Stow for whom the town is named. The Library